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## **PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Phoenix Union Commencement Exercises are a Non-stop Celebration**

Over 4,800 students from 15 schools will graduate during 26 hours of commencement exercises in front of 60,000 family members and friends on Phoenix Union High School District's graduation days, May 23-24.

It is the third year all 11 large schools will hold graduation at one venue- the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum, beginning with Cesar Chavez High School at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 23, and ending with Betty Fairfax High School in the final ceremony at 8:30 p.m., Thursday, May 24. Four small schools will have graduations at other venues, beginning with Bioscience High School at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday at the Herberger Theatre.

The Coliseum ceremonies begin every 2 ½ hours, spanning 12 hours on Wednesday and 14 hours on Thursday. Schools have 90 minutes to march in, give speeches, hand out diplomas and march out of the building. As one student body is crossing the stage, another school is lining up in an adjacent exhibit hall. To avoid a collision course, the parking, arena entrance and exits and staging areas per school alternate on the north and south sides of the Coliseum. Gates open for guests a half-hour prior to each ceremony, allowing approximately 30 minutes for set-up and a cleaning crew to get ready for the next show. Some schools draw upwards of 9,000 attendees. There is no guest limit per student, and tickets are not required.

The large schools will take over the Coliseum with five ceremonies on Wednesday, and six more on Thursday. The graduation ceremony schedule for Wednesday, May 23 is: Cesar Chavez, 10:30 a.m.; Maryvale, 1 p.m.; Alhambra, 3:30 p.m.; Trevor Browne, 6 p.m. and Carl Hayden, 8:30 p.m. On Thursday, May 24, the line-up is: Metro Tech, 8 a.m.; Central, 10:30 a.m.; Camelback, 1 p.m.; North, 3:30 p.m.; South Mountain, 6 p.m., and Betty Fairfax, 8:30 p.m.

Both Bioscience and Franklin Police and Fire High School will utilize the Herberger Theatre for the second year, with Franklin following Bioscience, Wednesday at 6 p.m. Both schools will have graduating classes of 51 students. Franklin, the small school that specializes in public safety career training such as law enforcement, firefighting and emergency medical services almost doubled last year's first senior class of 26 students. Small schools Suns-Diamondbacks Education Academy and Bostrom will utilize other District high school auditoriums for commencement exercises. Suns-Diamondbacks' ceremony is at Central High Auditorium, Wednesday evening, and Bostrom holds its graduation ceremony at Trevor Browne High School, Thursday evening.

**Phoenix Union Graduations: Wednesday, May 23 @ Veterans Memorial Coliseum**

**Cesar Chavez High School**, 10:30 a.m., Valedictorian: Liliana Espinoza Ornelas; Salutatorian: Reena Villariz. Estimated graduating class: 441

**Maryvale High School**, 1 p.m., Valedictorian: Reyna Rivera; Salutatorian: Nicole Mosqueira. Estimated graduating class: 500

**Alhambra High School**, 3:30 p.m., Valedictorian: Diane Arce; Salutatorian: Alexa Parra Cabrera. Estimated graduating class: 498

**Trevor G. Browne High School**, 6 p.m., Valedictorian: Joseth Hermosillo; Salutatorian: Rafael Nunez. Estimated graduating class: 450

**Carl Hayden Community High School**, 8:30 p.m., Valedictorian: Miguel Santoyo; Salutatorian: Edwin Avalos Goday. Estimated graduating class: 450

**Phoenix Union Graduations: Thursday, May 24 @ Veterans Memorial Coliseum**

**Metro Tech High School**, 8 a.m., Valedictorian: Danh Vu; Salutatorian: Rebeca Gutierrez. Estimated graduating class: 287

**Central High School**, 10:30 a.m., Valedictorian: Luz Elena Lopez; Salutatorian: Michael Geraldo. Estimated graduating class: 423

**Camelback High School**, 1 p.m., Valedictorian: Jazmine Tamayo; Salutatorian: Dulce Ponti. Estimated graduating class: 300

**North High School**, 3:30 p.m., Valedictorian: Farzana Abjulla; Salutatorian: Richa Nathaniel. Estimated graduating class: 510

**South Mountain High School**, 6 p.m., Valedictorian: Lorena Pina Nunez; Salutatorian: Kartia Nash. Estimated graduating class: 340

**Betty Fairfax High School**, 8:30 p.m., Valedictorian: Marisol Avitia; Salutatorian: James Edward Farmer II. Estimated graduating class: 355

**Phoenix Union Small Schools Graduations: Wednesday, May 23**

**Bioscience High School**, 4:30 p.m. at Herberger Theatre, 222 E. Monroe Street. Valedictorian: Nehal Jolly; Salutatorian: Aldin Malkoc. Estimated graduating class: 51

**Franklin Police and Fire High School**, 6 p.m. at Herberger Theatre, 222 E. Monroe Street. Valedictorian: Maria G. Chavez; Salutatorian: Denise Olivas. Estimated graduating class: 51

**Suns-Diamondbacks Education Academy**, 7 p.m. at Central High School Auditorium, 4525 N. Central Ave., Valedictorian: Daniel Cervantes; Salutatorian: Jose Ordonez. Estimated graduating class: 64

**Phoenix Union Small Schools Graduations: Thursday, May 24**

**Bostrom High School**, 6 p.m. at Trevor Browne High School Auditorium, 7402 W. Catalina Drive. Valedictorian: Edward Leyvas; Salutatorian: Natasha Mazon. Estimated graduating class: 84